MAY-
JUNE
1972

WRL NEWS

Charter Flight to WRI Conference

Good news! George Willoughby is working on a charter flight for those wanting to attend the War Resisters International Conference this summer, July 22-27, in Sheffield, England. If a total of thirty persons sign up, the cost of a round trip flight may be as low as $200. For information please write WRL office immediately. The WRI Conference offers a rare chance, once every three years, for pacifists, both leaders and rank and file, to meet, discuss, share. We'd like to have this delegation of Americans the largest ever to attend a WRI Conference abroad.

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THE ITT DEMONSTRATION

by Lynne Shatzkin

On May 10 between three and five thousand people gathered at the international corporate headquarters of the International Telephone & Telegraph Company in a WRL-initiated demonstration to protest ITT's involvement in the Indochina war. *(see top photo)*

At 4:00 p.m., ITT and midtown Manhattan suffered a simulated saturation bombing attack. Thousands of parachutes (simulated electronic battlefield sensors) were dropped on Park Avenue and fifteen minutes later, colored leaflets in the shapes of anti-personnel bombs used in Indochina were dropped. *(see bottom photo)*. Simultaneously the sounds of war pierced the air and guerrilla theater groups began to act out their impressions of Indochinese people suffering under an American bombing attack.

At 4:30 "Saigon Military Police" (Vietnam Veterans Against the War) with toy M-16 rifles began a "swoop" of the area, rounding up "survivors" of the bombing raid and herding them into a "concentration camp" in front of ITT. Once there, the demonstrators chanted slogans at the employees of ITT who were watching from their office windows.

At the last minute, because of the new escalation by the Nixon administration, we decided to call our sit-in a "blockade of ITT." Park Avenue is a major North-South street in midtown Manhattan. During rush hour this street is filled with businessmen traveling by cab and chauffered limousines. All of them were exposed to our

(Continued on page 2)

(Photos by John Goodwin)

ITT DEMONSTRATION (contd.)

demonstration and hopefully educated to the horror of the air war in Indochina.

We tied up rush hour traffic for several hours and police were forced to reroute the traffic to side streets causing incredible traffic jams throughout this wealthy area of New York City.

The only incident to mar this nonviolent demonstration occurred when police tried to clear the streets with horses. Stephen Lakey of War Tax Resistance was clubbed and beaten for sitting on the street, and Irma Zigas, of WRL was clubbed on the head when she attempted to calm police. After about fifteen minutes, and several injuries, the police were calmed down, and the officers responsible for the clubbing incident were removed by the police command. From that time on, the police were extremely helpful and tried to maintain their calm.

At about 6:30 when traffic thinned out and bystanders left for home, we decided to move our demonstration to a more crowded area of Manhattan. The Vietnam Veterans Against the War, our "Saigon Military Police", announced to the "concentration camp inmates" that they were going to be "relocated." At this point everyone moved out and we marched from Park Avenue and 51st Street to Times Square, occupying the streets as we went.

The demonstration ended in Times Square with a sit-in at about 8 o'clock.

Behind the Scenes

Two WRL members had taken responsibility for seeing that the "bombing" would take place. We dressed in our borrowed best and set out by cab to register at the Waldorf Astoria (which conveniently faces Park Avenue, a block from ITT). When we arrived our bags were whisked away by a very "helpful" doorman, not to be seen again for about an hour.

The Waldorf Astoria is a very alienating and uptight place under normal conditions, but when you are trying to act nonchalant and keep a secret and you "know" that everyone is looking at you strangely, all kinds of paranoia break loose.

We went to the desk to register and discovered that the room we had reserved was not ready for occupancy. We tried to explain to the desk clerk that we were on our "second honeymoon" and that for sentimental reasons we wanted a room facing Park Avenue. After all we had a similar room five years ago when we had "honeymooned" at the Waldorf.

Finally, after very strange looks from the desk clerk we got our room and our bags were delivered unopened as far as we could tell.

Do the windows open or will we have to take them out? Luck was on our side and all the windows in the room opened. In fact the bell boy offered to open them for us. Our next problem was getting the rest of our "bombs" up to the room. We called down to the desk and told them to expect a delivery of "liquor" for our anniversary party.

When the "liquor" (4 liquor cases filled with "bomb" leaflets) was brought by another WRL staff member, he was told that he couldn't go up to the room and a doorman would take them up and get a receipt. Luck was still with us and the delivery went off without a hitch.

At four o'clock the WRL staff looked up and sure enough our parachutes "sensors" came falling from the sky from their mysterious location at the Waldorf Astoria—right on schedule—and at 4:15 the "bombs" began to fall.

BUSTED AT AIR FORCE BASE

This photo shows Tom Flower, southwest WRL field representative, being arrested May 4 by helmeted riot police following a sitdown by 38 demonstrators inside the gate of Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City.

"He was maced in the eyes for refusing to move," reports Joey Howard, a spokesman for the group. "As of now (May 9), Tom, Randy Floyd and Jeff Herren still are in Oklahoma county jail in solitary. Four other demonstrators are not in solitary. All seven are on a hunger strike." (Late Flash—by May 16 all were released on reduced bond).

The charge is trespassing on a military reservation. Bond for Flower and Floyd was set at $5000, which one city attorney who declined to be named, termed "perhaps a record high bond on a federal misdemeanor." Bond for the other 36 ranged upward of $1000. The authorities have pegged Flower as the "ringleader" and have been telling parents of arrested students that he is the person responsible. Floyd is a former Air Force captain who received the Distinguished Flying Cross in Vietnam. Herren, the very day before the demonstration, received a religious leadership award from the president of Oklahoma University.

The sitdown occurred when demonstrators were blocked in their attempt to confer with the area commander, Major General Richard Reinbold. They had prepared a statement to Tinker personnel "protesting the murderous activity engaged in by the U.S. Air Force" and urging them to "reconsider your role in the barbaric acts perpetrated against the people of Indochina."

ENROLLMENT BLANK

Send to War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street, N. Y., N.Y. 10012

WAR IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY.
I THEREFORE AM DETERMINED NOT TO SUPPORT ANY KIND OF WAR, INTERNATIONAL OR CIVIL, AND TO STRIVE FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL THE CAUSES OF WAR

signature

address

city

state *zip code*

WHITHER WRL?

by David McReynolds

In 1973 the War Resisters League will be fifty years old. It has a long and honorable tradition as part of what could be called the "Democratic Left" of America, and has over the years maintained ties to the international pacifist movement. Some day we'll get a history of WRL, one which can chronicle its early beginnings as a movement heavily influenced by non-religious pacifism—and anti-militarist tradition of American anarchists and socialists. We have, over the decades, been distinctly secular even though we always welcomed the religious into membership.

Now we are entering a new phase, and this article is an effort to set forth some of the problems we need to deal with. For organizations change, just like people. Organizations that do not change either die or enter the special limbo reserved for such groups—they somehow calcify, drawing on old loyalties, producing nothing new. They live on like relics, neither affecting nor being affected by the society around them.

One of our problems is strictly organizational. The League now is at its largest in history. It was large also in World War 2, serving to give aid and comfort to the hundreds of its members in prisons and "alternative service camps." But when I came on the staff in 1961, the only persons working full time were Ralph DiGia and Bayard Rustin, the two of them (plus myself) jammed into a tiny little one room office at 5 Beekman St. in Manhattan. The mailing list was just about 3000. We had no active local groups. And we made it through the year on a budget of less than $15,000. Today our active mailing list is 15,000, our budget is close to $130,000, we have seven persons on staff in the national office, there are four regional offices and more than twenty local groups. *WRL News* used to be just one sheet, now it is a 6-pager—and we've got *WIN* magazine as well.

The Problems Posed

Those are huge changes for a ten year period and they pose problems. A staff of seven begins to function in a somewhat more formal way. We have created a National Committee to help share the decision-making powers. And we now have an annual National Conference. All of us need to ask whether we want a League that is this large, should we build it even larger, what is its role now within the peace movement and the broader society, can decision making be made more responsive to the rank and file, should the office be in New York, should there even be a *national* office, etc. No one can lightly answer these questions—and there are many others that I haven't even raised. But these are organizational questions only, and I want instead to probe two other areas. This article is the first of several that will appear here or in *WIN* as we seek out what our definition should be at this period of our own history. It is not an expression of staff opinion, or the Executive Committee—simply an article by one person to help open the discussion.

There has never been a pacifist orthodoxy to which one had to subscribe—we don't even have a procedure for expelling someone from membership. And this is good because it has allowed us to change and grow. In the beginning the League was an enrollment organization only—if enough young men would sign the pledge not to fight, the State would find itself without an army and wars would cease. One problem was that as men and women confronted great evils and did not know what else to do except to fight violently, they often changed their minds about the pledges they had signed. It was one thing, after World War 1 was finally exposed as a war centering on trade and empire, to think that *all* wars were really produced by munitions makers. But there was a difference between the Kaiser and Hitler and men who thought they would never fight again found themselves torn between deeply held pacifist beliefs and their knowledge of the reality of Nazism.

Then with the advent of the nuclear period, we realized two things. First, an individual pledge not to fight would not stop war—not when war could be made by simply pushing a button. The League had to move beyond the courage of individual witness and seek for ways to root out the institution of war. This was also a period of "nuclear pacifism," when persons who may have fought in World War 2, or who feel they might have fought in it if they had been of age, realized that in a world with nuclear weapons that no evil was greater than the evil of nuclear war. In short, we had to experiment with nonviolence because we had no choice. It was either pacifism of some kind, or the death of the race.

The Past Ten Years

Now, however, we have been through a confusing ten years, obsessed by a limited and non-nuclear war—that in Vietnam. Never in its history has this nation entered upon a war both so protracted and so utterly indefensible. All wars are evil, by their nature, but generally we had held to us some thin fabric of national justification. In the Civil War it was a struggle to end slavery; the Spanish American war was to smash Spanish tyranny; World War I would make the world safe for democracy and was, in Wilson's phrase, "a war being fought to end all wars;" World War 2 was a struggle against Nazis and Fascists; even the Korean War could be seen, during that period of intense anti-Communism, as an effort to block the expansion of Communist totalitarianism. Only in this war, unique in our history, have our leaders never been able to define the conflict for us in terms that would call forth heroism and moral support. The U.S. was wrong literally every step of the way. If one side could ever be called "right" in something as dreadful as war, it is the side of Hanoi and the National Liberation Front. For many younger persons, now in the League, their pacifism is not tested by Vietnam, for it is so easy to oppose this war. And at the same time, because of the justice on the other side, it is easy for us to apologize for their violence or even not to see it. North Vietnamese artillery does kill civilians, after all. And if you have talked with veterans you will find that NLF and North Vietnamese troops also commit atrocities—such is the nature of war and we ought never lose sight of it. We must hold firmly to the knowledge that the monstrous and enormous evil of the U.S. government in this war cannot sanctify someone else's lesser violence, nor heal the wounds and pain inflicted in even the best cause.

We must, even as the Vietnam War continues and reaches new levels of crisis, keep in mind that our movement is for the long haul, that ending this war leaves us with more terrible problems still unsolved, that all the while Johnson and Nixon have been killing Vietnamese, the nuclear time bombs continue clicking away—that we live on borrowed time.

But I think we need to realize something else when we are critical of the violence of the NLF and Hanoi. That is that

for many persons in the world there is no clear concept of nonviolence, no obvious way to deal with injustice except by the gun. It does little good for us to criticize those who, with misgivings and also with courage and—yes—compassion, pick up guns if we are not working to remove the injustice in our world. There is, after all, a silent death, an invisible terror at work in the slums of our nation, among the poor of every nation. Children starving to death, dying from disease, are victims of that "respectable war" the Establishment everywhere wages against the poor. If we do not want violent revolutions, we must champion nonviolent and radical social change.

Polycentrist pacifism is a phrase I borrowed from Jim Best at the FOR, as he thought through some of the same problems. Our movement not only should have several strong centers geographically (as with WRL West, virtually independent of the National Office), but we must also let people move in their own ways toward their definition of pacifism, and see which kind works best. Certainly the pacifism of the young radical Catholics joining the League will be different at crucial points from our traditional pacifism. And if we do our job and welcome veterans in, they will have a different view of pacifism also. Already we are caught in a paradox—we now have members of the League who are in the armed forces, a theoretical contradiction we never faced before—but nonviolence only grows when it is dealing with paradox, resolving the contradictions by living through them.

Must We Be White, Middle Class?

One of the things which most bothers me, and which I hope we will really try to grapple with, is our self-definition as a middle class white organization. We have few workers and very few non-whites in our membership. We say nonviolence is a universal value, yet our own organization is hardly universal. It is shaming to realize that the great exponents of nonviolence in this period — Gandhi, King, Chavez—did not emerge from a white middle class background. And sobering to realize that their power in winning converts to nonviolence rested on their willingness to link nonviolence with struggle against real social problems.

Can the League move in the direction of being multiracial and multi-class? Can we understand that the struggle of Chavez is not just a "nice thing" but central to our concerns? Do we have the patience to recruit outside of our own class and group? I think we can. I have been deeply impressed with the degree to which pacifist men have responded to the question of Women's Liberation, trying to understand it, trying to deal with it. Not long ago our Literature Committee met—a committee of volunteers from the Executive Committee—and we realized that, by accident, we had no women. That became the first order of business. There were no women present to press that case, but the men, on their own, had internalized the arguments, knew them to be correct, and added women to the committee.

Yet we struggle with Women's Liberation or with Gay Liberation because it is the closest thing to us, not because it is the most important thing. The poor and non-whites in our society are far more oppressed than women or homosexuals, but we don't know how to deal with their problems. We are now saying that our committees should aim at having women fill half the posts, and that women must be given key staff positions—and these are sound demands. Yet they are less urgent than the need to make sure that non-whites and non-middle class persons play leadership roles in our committees and in our local organizations.

I can only hope that as we review the fifty years of our history, and look to where we want the League to go, we shall try to break out of our white ghetto. I should hope we can realize that a nonviolent society is going to be one that requires radical social change, that peace is not the mere absence of conflict, but the presence of justice. Power corrupts, but so does powerlessness. War destroys, but so does that kind of nonresistance which characterizes those who have lost hope.

These are some of the things on my own mind, as we seek to redefine our own radicalism, as we try to make room in the League for new groupings such as veterans, Catholic radicals, and the youth of the counter-culture. It is easy in a period of transition to turn inward upon ourselves, attacking one another or seeking security in personal goodness. But the League, at this turning point in its life, needs to reach out, beyond itself, and make it clear that nonviolence is radical, democratic, human. We need to change, grow, and see in nonviolence not some pure end in itself, but a method for achieving justice and, in that effort, draw into our ranks those with different economic, racial, and religious backgrounds.

PAULA PECK DEAD

Paula Peck, wife of the editor of *WRL NEWS* and a WRLer since the 1940s, before she knew Jim, died April 25 at the age of 45 following a prolonged illness. She first met Jim at a WRL street meeting in 1947 on the corner of Broadway and 110th Street. The entire staff attended her service on April 28.

She was the author of two widely acclaimed cookbooks, a cooking teacher and a kitchen expert whom Craig Claiborn, former food editor of the New York Times characterized in 1966 as "one of the most remarkable talents in the world of food today." She is survived by Jim; two sons, Sam, who just graduated with honors from Georgetown and Charles, in the second year of a pre-medical course at University of Denver; her parents, who are retired in Florida and a sister, who also lives in Florida.

WRL ELECTION RESULTS

(in order of majority)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE — Irma Zigas, Ann Davidon, Maris Cakars, David Berkingoff, Ed Murphy, Wendy Schwartz, Connie Bleakley, Allan Solomonow, Edna Coleman.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

EASTERN REGION — Bob Eaton, Marjorie Swann, Jim Bristol

SOUTHERN REGION—Grace & Ed Hedemann, Steve Hipps, Chip Sharpe, Martin Yanuck

MIDWEST REGION—Seth Foldy, William Reichert

WESTERN REGION—Ira Sandperl, Denny Wilcher

This July 9-15 the War Resisters League is running a special training program for local organizers, limited to thirty persons. Already close to sixty have responded and it will be heartbreaking to prune the list. We need housing in Manhattan for those thirty youths. If you can help, please contact David McReynolds, WRL office.

A new book has just been published about a prominent and very early member of the WRL. It is titled BEYOND NATIONALISM: THE SOCIAL THOUGHT OF EMILY GREENE BALCH. It is edited by another longtime WRLer, Mercedes Randall. The price is $5.95 and it can be ordered fromthe League.

Ramashai Purohit, who took a 5000-mile peace walk from New Delhi to Belfast, flew to New York May 12 to present his peace appeal to the UN.

JOURNEY TO THE MIDDLE EAST

by Allan Solomonow

Thus far we have been more than reluctant to discuss the issues of the Middle East: we have been scared. Seemingly, we would rather remain silent, abiding by the necessary course of our silence: further war. On this one issue our collective conscience dissolves into an unbecoming mixture of resignation and hysteria.

We endure this situation even though there are many who find that the issues of the Middle East appear to prevent them from giving their fullest opposition to the war in Indochina and the escalated bombing.

Some peace groups such as WILPF, SANE and WRL have issued statements on the Middle East, but the only comprehensive effort, by an AFSC "working committee," received a hostile response and allegations of "anti-semitism". Perhaps partly for that reason no peace group has made a serious effort to distribute literature on the Middle East or initiate even a modest educational effort.

Now, with the elections ahead of us, there is little choice for those seeking a candidate who has something to say about diminishing the military threat in the Middle East, let alone undertaking some positive steps for a just settlement.

After fifteen months working for Committee on New Alternatives in the Middle East, I was asked to journey to that part of the world. One might have assumed that persons concerned with peace and justice in the United States and in Vietnam would be in contact with their counterparts in the Middle East who have supported such goals. Unfortunately such communication has been meagre at best.

As far as I know my trip marked the first time an active member of the peace community has visited the nations of the Middle East to speak with students, journalists and others active in peace activities. At a time when a Nixon feels free to wing his way to Mao, our own estrangement from our Mediterranean compatriots seems sufficiently out-of-place to suggest that it is more than our own forgetfulness.

There IS Hope

No response to our Middle East concern is more frequent than, "There is simply no hope!" Whether partisan of the Israelis or the Arabs, each views the other as monolithic, a puppet for the Americans or the Soviets, bent on the utter destruction of the other.

The most immediate lesson of my trip was that such facile generalizations are nothing more than grotesque distortions; the kind we would not hesitate to denounce ordinarily. My meeting with Arabs and Israelis not only dispelled these simplistic illusions but revealed that the diversity of views is far greater in the Middle East than in the distant shelter of the United States.

Israeli opinion is far from monolithic. There are several peace groups in Israel all of which have to some degree, been critical of the government's support of the U.S. role in Indochina, of the policy of tacit annexation through permanent settlement of the occupied territories, and of the increasing economic displacement resulting from the continuing military priority. While I was in Israel, peace groups leafleted in opposition to the West Bank elections and protested the peremptory evacuation of 2000 Bedouins from their homes in the Gaza Strip.

Nor is Israel "a lackey of Wall Street imperialism." Even those in the peace community are more than sensitive to the government's tendency to follow so independent a course that opinion from the United States and other sources appears to have little impact on Israeli policy.

And while the conservative Gahal Party calls on Israel to officially annex the occupied territories, there are active voices opposing this policy within the ruling coalition of the government.

The very diversity within the Arab world makes comment still more difficult. Peace movements in all the Arab states have long opposed the Indochina war. In spite of opposing policy in the Arab governments, these voices publicly supported the movement for independence of Bangla Desh. Student groups, in particular are more frequently heard, calling not so much for sabre-rattling but for domestic reforms with a firmer socialist program.

Most of these groups have repudiated an anti-semitic position and given priority to seeking a means of peaceful accommodation with Israel, if at all possible. A wide range in viewpoints has emerged among the Arab states and the Palestinians.

The role of the Soviet Union is far from being formidable. Those with whom I met, were at best cynical of the Russian position; there is little fondness for the Russians in the Arab world. The Communist Party remains outlawed in most Arab countries, although it is legal in Israel and what Marxists there are, strongly support a peaceful settlement as set forth in the United Nations Resolution 242.

None of these factors make it likely that one or more countries will suddenly disarm and request the United Nations to invoke binding arbitration. What could be elaborated in vastly greater detail is that none of the countries in the Middle East has a position that is beyond serious appeal to change.

Peace People Must Act NOW

To be sure, in each government we will continue to see the many political masks that so easily deceive us into passing judgments: rhetoric, military might, threat of attack, appeals for unity and the denial of dissent. They are used to intimidate would-be peacemakers, to scare us away from linking up with the forces for peace.

If we have learned one lesson from Vietnam it is that peace does not simply happen, it is made. Peace does not suddenly arise from the revelation that a "solution" will evaporate our problems. Peace comes from gradually dismembering the simplistic myths governments would have us believe and creating a real peace among people. The seeds of that peace *are* in the Arab countries and Israel. As members of the peace community, our choice should be an easy one; we can continue to tell ourselves there is no hope, only hate. To follow that road we must be reconciled to the war that course renders inevitable. Or, we can work for peace.

As easy as this may sound, many of us find our personal involvment in the Middle East so great we cannot take this step to peace. There is little question that a peace community commitment in the Middle East is far off. Let us take only a first step: to begin to explore the thoughts of the many—Palestinian, Arab, Israeli—who now are working for peace where the risk is greatest.

It is time for the peace community to take up the issues of the Middle East, to talk of the prospects for peace actively, in a questioning spirit of hope and of reconciliation. That is the very least our commitment should mean.

For a free list of literature on The Middle East, write: Committee on New Alternatives in the Middle East, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012.

ACTION IN ALBUQUERQUE

by Jerry Coffin

Albuquerque is unique in that it tends towards a harsh form of right-wing politics. In my view it's much more dangerous to be a radical in the Southwest than in any other part of the country. And yet there is a strong radical movement in the Southwest and WRL-SW is a strong component of that movement. The repression on the one hand and the creativity of local movement people (under the leadership of WRL coordinators Craig Simpson and Geoff Beckett) on the other make all actions in Albuquerque unique. High-risk actions are common because any action in that area is risky. People are not afraid of the risk and their courage leads to dynamic, dangerous and *effective* nonviolent action.

The response to Nixon's "mines and bombs" speech was an immediate rally of some 300 people on a half hour's notice to discuss the escalation and decide on what the local response should be. The next day about four hundred people occupied and blocked the Interstate highway for three hours. One of the many vehicles stopped for those three hours was a truck loaded with nuclear warheads. Following the Interstate highway blockade, people marched to the University of New Mexico campus for a rally.

The rally was violently broken up by armed police. Tear gas was used in great quantities around the campus with a day care center among the targets. Shotgun-wielding police wounded several people, including a woman who is still in critical condition.

On Wednesday, May 10, as ITT and Midtown Manhattan were the target of militant nonviolent action, a march was held through town to Kirtland AFB and 36 people were arrested for attempting to block base gates. During the march a car containing a man waving a gun struck several demonstrators.

On May 11 the students of the University of New Mexico declared their university a Center for Nonviolent Action. Constant demonstrations were launched from the campus and teams of people engaged in traffic blockades, sit-ins, picket lines and guerrilla theater throughout the Albuquerque area. A curfew was in force but that night the President of the University declared his solidarity with the students and joined them in an all-night vigil against the war.

The next night, Friday, May 12, some 2000 students and community people staged a six-mile candlelight march through the city. On Saturday, an anti-war rally drew four-thousand-plus demonstrators.

Sunday, May 14, was Mother's Day and a contingent of middle-aged women who, according to Craig Simpson, had never been seen at a demonstration, established a picket line in front of Nixon Campaign Headquarters. Sometime on Mother's Day they painted the entire front of the headquarters black, in mourning, and hung a large anti-war banner.

GI resistance escalated along with the war. WRL-SW has had an ongoing relationship with the local GI movement and so it is natural for them to work closely with GI's during this crisis. Some highlights of GI actions include one WRL-SW activist being arrested (at the May 10 sit-in) and thrown in the military stockade. Refusing to give his name, he's being held as "John Doe." Repression must be applied in a sophisticated way if it is to work at all. By throwing John Doe in the stockade, the military multiplied their problems. Once in the stockade John Doe began organizing. Now the military is faced with on-base resistance *and* a work stoppage and hunger strike in their stockade. But they never learn. The GI's whose names appeared on the permit for the May 20 Armed Forces day demonstration have been put on restrictions. One is on "24-hour standby to drive the base Commander." Another was threatened with orders for Vietnam. When he said he would refuse such orders he was promptly ordered to pick up a rifle. He refused the order and was thrown in the stockade with "Joe Doe."

As this is being written plans call for a massive Armed Forces Day action on May 20 at Kirtland. Also Albuquerque High School students are planning a walkout and strike on Wednesday, May 17.

As I said, Albuquerque is unique. But if people in that repressive and violent atmosphere can organize and act in militantly nonviolent ways, there's no excuse for any other part of the country not to act.

Literally every city and town in this country can and should engage in actions similar to those in Albuquerque. And people are doing it. Nixon Campaign Headquarters are the targets of actions all over the country. Highway sit-ins are becoming common (the morning this article was written the West Side Highway, one of New York's main commuter roads, was blocked for an hour by demonstrators, and middle-aged, middle-class women on Long Island blocked another road).

Take a lesson from Albuquerque. If they can do it so can you.

PROTEST ESCALATES

The bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong followed closely by the mining of North Vietnam harbors has set off a series of escalating protest demonstrations on campuses, in major cities and at war plants from coast to coast

They climax May 21 with a march on Washington expected to set a record in attendance. It is endorsed by both Peoples Coalition for Peace & Justice and National Peace Action Coalition. The following day, Peoples Coalition is organizing a Blockade of the Pentagon.

On April 15, People's Coalition, on very short notice, organized a sitdown across from the White House in which 240 demonstrators were arrested. The following Saturday, the long-planned march and rally of Peace Action Coalition in New York drew 50,000 participants despite a torrential rain.

ATLANTA OFFICE FIREBOMBED

The building which housed the Atlanta Workshop in Nonviolence and GI Counseling Services, both affiliated with WRL, was wrecked by firebombing in the early morning hours of May 6. The office of The Great Speckled Bird, a weekly, located on the top floor, was totally destroyed.

Atlanta police report no clues on the bombers. They, apparently, first broke into the building and doused the top floor with gasoline. Then they threw the bombs through the front windows, igniting the entire edifice. Neighbors report hearing a loud noise like a shot and then viewing the building engulfed in flames.

AWIN and GI Counseling Service have not yet been able to assess their total damages. The GI mailing list of 1500 names and other contact lists were destroyed by the flames. The mimeo machine was totally wrecked—and the 2 groups are temporarily homeless.

" We just had finished a week of beautiful meetings and demonstrations around Resistance-Earth Week and we had organized or contributed support to protest actions in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina," recalls an AWIN spokesman. "We are about to launch our summer program. Persons who want to help us make up the damages from the bombing should send their contributions to AWIN, Box 7477, Atlanta, Ga. 30309. Our temporary phone number is (404) 876-0576."

25% OF DAY'S RECEIPTS TO WRL

"Yesterday I posted a notice in my second-hand bookstore that 25% of the day's receipts would go to WRL," wrote Carl Walz of Northampton, Mass. on April 22.

"Enclosed find check for $38.90. Keep up the good work!"